

# Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance FAQs

Though current military compensation is equal to or exceeds the private sector, military families may still encounter challenges during these difficult economic times. Several benefits are available to assist service members, including the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) Program, detailed here. For questions about this program or any other assistance, contact your family support center, command, or community services financial management counselors.

***Q. What is FSSA?***

A. FSSA, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, IS an additional monthly payment that assists eligible service members WITH feeding their families.

***Q. Who can receive FSSA?***

A. Active Component and Reserve Component members on active duty with multiple family members meeting the income-eligibility requirements may participate in the FSSA Program.

***Q. What is SNAP?***

A. As of 1 October 2008, The Supplemental Nutrition Allowance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program.

***Q. What is the difference between SNAP and FSSA?***

A. SNAP is State managed, to include the District of Columbia, by a supporting Food and Nutrition Service Office. SNAP participants typically receive a debit card to purchase food. FSSA is a Department of Defense program designed to ensure that service members do not need to take advantage of SNAP.

***Q. How much FSSA can I receive?***

A. The rate of FSSA eligibility depends on the member's household income and the number of individuals in the household. Members can receive up to \$1100 per month.

***Q. How do I apply?***

A. **Army** - Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/> to see if you qualify. If you do, complete and print the application and bring the form to your local Army Community Services (ACS) office for further assistance. Once certified by ACS, take the application to your local personnel office for final processing and forwarding to DFAS.

**Navy** - Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/> to see if you qualify. If you do, complete your FSSA application accessing the website cited above and submit the form to your Command FSSA Coordinator. The Coordinator will verify your application to ensure you are qualified. After verification of eligibility, your FSSA coordinator will submit the application through your chain of command for endorsement and submission to DFAS.

**Marine Corps** - Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/> to see if you qualify. If you do, go to your supporting Marine Corps Community Services Center to meet with a financial management counselor for advice and assistance. You will then submit your completed application through your chain of command to determine eligibility. Upon approval, your chain of command will process for receipt of payments.

**Air Force** - Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/> to see if you qualify. If you do, complete and print the application and bring the form to your local Commander Support Staff (CSS). After verification of eligibility, CSS submits application to local Financial Services Office who will forward up chain of command for final processing and forwarding to DFAS.

**Coast Guard** - Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/>

to see if you qualify. If you do, review the FSSA policy in the Coast Guard Pay Manual, Ch. 3, sec. M. Complete the FSSA Application, CG PPC 2075, located in the 3PM, Enclosure 1, and submit it to CG PPC (MAS) for processing.

***Q. Can I apply for FSSA if I am participating in SNAP?***

A. Yes. If you are receiving SNAP, you may apply for FSSA. The amount you receive will be either what your command calculates your entitlement to be, or the amount you are already receiving in SNAP (whichever is higher) up to \$1100 per month. Once you begin receiving FSSA, you must report FSSA as income to the SNAP office. FSSA may affect your eligibility for other income-based public assistance programs.

***Q. What are my responsibilities once I receive FSSA?***

A. You must inform your command within 30 days if your monthly household income increases by \$100 or more, or if your household size decreases by any amount. Members must recertify annually, effective 1 February of each year (this date was chosen to account for the typical 1 January pay raise).

***Q. Where do I go for more information?***

A. To learn more about FSSA, see your command financial counselor, command FSSA coordinator, unit personnel office, Fleet and Family Support Center, Army Community Services, or Marine Corps Community Services. They will have the latest information and can determine if you qualify. Before you go, you can check yourself to see if you qualify and fill out the FSSA application by logging onto <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa/>

**Be sure to bring the completed application with you. You may also review the FSSA policy through the Financial Management Regulation (FMR) website at:**

**[http://www.defenselink.mil/comptroller/fmr/07a/07a\\_25.pdf](http://www.defenselink.mil/comptroller/fmr/07a/07a_25.pdf)**